CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for calculating edge functions for a patch of pixels, comprising the actions of:

computing edge function values for at least one interior point within said patch; and

computing edge function values for multiple other points within said patch, using an arithmetic combination of said edge function values for said interior point,

together with previously computed values of said edge functions for points on the border of said patch,

together with a reduced set of offset vectors.

2. A method for calculating edge functions for a patch of points,
comprising the actions of:

computing the value of an edge function at an interior reference
point within said patch, and at a boundary reference point on
the edge of said patch; and

assessing the value of said edge function at multiple other points
within said patch, by comparing

the value of said edge function at a respective reference point,
which may be said interior reference point or said
boundary reference point or a previously computed
reference point,

with

the delta value of said edge function for a respective one of a
reduced set of offset vectors;

wherein said reduced set of offset vectors does not include vectors
which are complements or shifts of each other.

Add
A1